

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A swab, comprising:
a handle defining a longitudinal axis, the handle being elongated and having a cleaning head end and a grasping end, the cleaning head end defining a securing region; and
a cleaning tip, the cleaning tip being formed from a plurality of fibers formed by pulling the fibers through a die compressing the fibers into a substantially rigid, elongated cleaning head, the cleaning head being secured to the handle at the cleaning head-end, the handle and cleaning tip defining a longitudinal axis.

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Claim 2 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is formed from polyester fibers.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip fits snugly into a bore in the handle at the securing region ~~is secured to the handle by friction-fit.~~

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the cleaning tip is secured to the handle by ultrasonic welding.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The swab in accordance with claim 1 wherein the handle is a hollow tubular member defining a central bore and the cleaning tip is formed having a shape and a dimension for inserting into the handle bore forming a non-bending swab.

Claim 8 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 1 including a tether secured to the handle grasping end.

Claim 9 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein an end of the tether is inserted into the handle bore.

Claim 10 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 1 including a grip portion mounted externally of the handle.

Claim 11 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 10 including a tether mounted to the swab at the grip portion.

Claim 12 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 11 wherein a portion of the tether is disposed between the grip portion and the handle.

Claim 13 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the tether is permanently mounted to the handle.

Claim 14 (original): The swab in accordance with claim 8 wherein the tether is removably mounted to the handle.